

Remarks

Claims 5-13 and 17-21 are now pending in this application. Applicants canceled claims 1-4 and 14-16 and re-wrote claim 5 in independent form. Claims 1-4 and 14-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, meaning that applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a separate application.

The Examiner noted that the present application did not contain an Abstract. Applicants believe that the Preliminary Amendment filed on March 8, 2002, included an Abstract on a separate sheet. The present Amendment nonetheless includes the same Abstract.

Claims 1-4 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,569,657. Claims 6-13 and 17-21 were deemed to be in condition for allowance, and claims 5 and 16 were deemed to be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants canceled claims 1-4 and 14-16 and re-wrote claim 5 in independent form. These amendments should place this application in condition for allowance.


By canceling claims 1-4 and 14-16, applicants do not express agreement with the rejections and do not acquiesce in the merits of the rejections.

In view of these amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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